

Energy Conservation Efforts



H6 | HOME The Straits Times 26 Oct 05 Wed THE STRAITS TIMES

Town councils' lighting scheme helps save \$3.8m

14 of them now use energy-saving bulbs, devices for common areas

By RADHA BASU

A NEW lighting scheme that many Housing Board residents are still in the dark about has quietly helped 14 town councils here save more than \$3.8 million in annual electricity bills.

And as more and more HDB blocks take part — one in two is already on board — the savings will simply inch higher.

The scheme, meant for lighting common areas such as corridors, carparks and grounds of HDB estates, was made public yesterday at a press conference called by the 14 town councils under the People's Action Party.

The savings have been chalked up through a simple two-pronged plan, said the chairman of the councils' design and maintenance committee, Dr Teo Ho Pin.

First, new lights that consume less electricity but burn just as brightly, have been installed in around 2,400 blocks that were due for a total revamp of their

lighting systems.

These have already saved the town councils around \$2.7 million, said Dr Teo, who is also chairman of the Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council.

Meanwhile, another 2,000 blocks, which are not due for a lighting revamp, have been fitted with energy-saving devices that can regulate the amount of current that goes into a light fitting. These have saved the councils an additional \$1.1 million.

"With rising electricity prices, these new energy-saving lighting systems are an innovative way of managing our utility bills," said Dr Teo.

The councils now spend about \$94 million a year on electricity — which accounts for a hefty quarter of their total expenditure for managing HDB estates.

Installing these devices so far has cost the councils about \$7 million — which can be recovered in less than two years, given the electricity savings. The new lights are expected to last around 20 years.

"Once all blocks get the new lights, we are looking at around \$12 million in savings every year," said Dr Teo.

There are no plans yet,

however, to reduce the service and conservancy fees that residents pay to councils for managing the estates.

The chairman of the councils' estate maintenance committee, Mr Ang Mong Seng, pointed out that the overall costs of maintaining HDB estates have been rising by about 3 per cent every year for the past five years.

"Electricity tariffs alone have gone up quite substantially," said Mr Ang, who also chairs the Hong Kah Town Council. "Savings from these new lighting schemes have helped us offset part of these increases."

Though most Housing Board residents are still unaware of the quiet changes, a few like Mrs Elizabeth Wong, have begun to take notice.

"The corridors and lift lobbies of my Woodlands estate are suddenly looking brighter," the 38-year-old hospital manager told The Straits Times yesterday.

What she did not know was that the lights save electricity as well.

"I'd say that's a real bonus, given the growing power bills everywhere," she said.

radhab@sph.com.sg

组屋更新省电灯管

Lianhe Wanbao 25 Oct 05 Tues



▲张仰宾博士(右)和洪茂诚,手里拿的分别是省电的T5和T8灯管。

5年后年省电费1200万

洪才翔报道

14个人民行动党的市镇理事会,已开始在其管辖的市镇里为组屋更新省电的灯管和安装能源节省器,可在5年后每年节省高达1200万元的电费。

设计短小的新式省电灯管T5,完全没影响到电灯的明亮度,也不会带来保安问题,但可节省最少25%电费。

市镇理事会在省下这笔可观的电费后,是否意味着居民能享受到少交维修费和杂费的好处?

协调14个理事会的维修与保养工作委

员会主席洪茂诚委员,今早宣布这项即将全面展开的省电措施后受访时透露,维修费和杂费与理事会的整个维修成本息息相关。

他也透露,即使居民所应缴付的费用不会更低,也会因为缓和增加的幅度和次数而得到好处。

过去多年来,因为员工薪金和材料等的费用不断上涨,导致市镇理事会的运作成本每年增加3%,但居民所缴付的维修费和杂费,只在去年调高2%。之前的收费调整是在1997年。

出席同个新闻发布会的行動党市镇理

事会设计及维修回馈委员会主席张仰宾博士指出,理事会管辖的组屋多达9000座,每年的电费是9400万元,占总开支的24%。过去一年里,电费增加18%,省电措施有助减低上涨的成本。

他也指出,如以每座组屋来计算,更新较便宜的T5灯管的费用是5600元,估计三年内才能收回成本。

到目前为止,已在5个理事会的611座组屋安装了新灯管,并在1836座组屋安装T8省电灯管。另外的1948座组屋则安装能源节省器。

Berita Dalam Negeri

BERITA HARIAN

Berita Harian 26 Oct 05 Wed

Lampu baru jimat kos majlis bandaran

DAYA usaha baru bagi menjimat tenaga di 14 majlis bandaran (TC) setempat telah berjaya mengurangkan seperempat perbelanjaan mereka.

Penjimatan itu bakal bertambah dengan usaha memperkenalkan lampu pendarfluor (fluorescent) jenis T5 yang mampu mencapai penjimatan tenaga sehingga 47 peratus tanpa menjejaskan mutu keterangan.

Bahkan, lima TC telah pun menjimat kira-kira \$2 juta setahun sejak ia mula menggunakan lampu jenis tersebut.

Justeru, apabila diwujudkan kelak, penjimatan itu boleh meningkat sehingga \$12 juta setahun.

Dalam sidang akhbar semalam, pengerusi Jawatankuasa Maklum Balas Rekaan dan Penyenggaraan, Dr Teo Ho Pin, berkata sebelum kemunculan lampu jenis T5, TC menggunakan lampu pendarfluor jenis T8 dengan balast elektronik.

Langkah itu mengha-

silkan penjimatan 25 peratus. Dr Teo, yang juga Anggota Parlimen GRC Holland-Bukit Panjang, berkata selain daripada ia dapat menjimat kuasa, lampu T8 dan T5 itu juga menikmati tempoh 'hayat' yang lebih panjang.

Ia juga mesra sekitar-

an berbanding lampu jenis PL padat dan pendarfluor biasa yang digunakan sebelum ini.

Lampu jenis T5 mula dipasang di 611 blok di kawasan Sembawang, Holland-Bukit Panjang, Pasir Ris-Punggol, East Coast, Hong Kah dan Jalan Besar yang memang dijadualkan menukarkan lampu.

Sementara itu, lebih

1,800 flat pula telah dipasang dengan lampu jenis T8.

Dr Teo menjelaskan, flat-flat akan ditukar dengan lampu jenis T5 sejajar dengan jadual penukaran wayar yang dilakukan setiap 20 tahun atau penyenggaraan berkitar, yang dilakukan setiap tujuh tahun.

Sementara itu, lebih

1,800 flat pula telah dipasang dengan lampu jenis T8.